

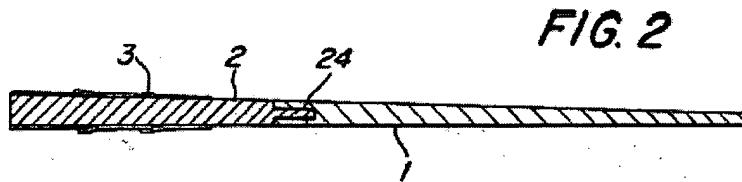
REMARKS

This Amendment after Final is responsive to the Office Action of July 29, 2003. A request for an extension of time and the appropriate fee are attached hereto.

Applicant has amended Claims 24, 30 and 34, and canceled Claims 1-23, 25-26, 28-29, 32-33 and 35-56, such that Claims 24, 27, 30, 31 and 34 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending Claims based on these amendments and the following remarks.

Many of the canceled claims correspond to the non-elected claims. Others correspond to claims that would be redundant or in conflict with amended Claim 24. Applicant has also elected to cancel the other claim sets to simplify the issues.

Applicant's claimed invention is a method of making a golf club that involves forming a plurality of weighting tips and then integrating one of the plurality of weighing tips into a golf club shaft by attaching the selected weighting tip to a mandrel:



Independent Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate many of the limitations of the canceled claims. In addition, Claim 24 has been amended to explicitly recite the step of "forming a plurality of weighing plugs", a step that is

not remotely taught or suggested by the applied references. The new step reads as follows:

- (a) forming a plurality of weighting plugs of different weight by combining different amounts of a dense weighting material with a moldable resin to form differently weighted combinations and curing the differently weighted combinations in a suitable mold;

The affect of the new step is the ready availability of a finite plurality of different weighting plugs as suggested by the following excerpt from Figure 7:

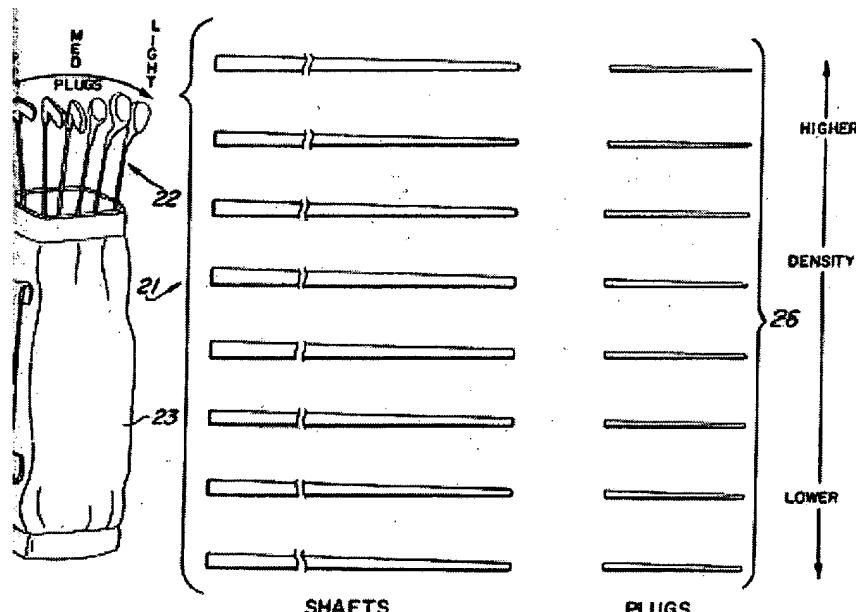


FIG. 7

Claim 24 has also been amended to include a more detailed step of "forming a light weight golf club shaft" that is accomplished by wrapping prepreg

around a mandrel/plug assembly and then curing it. This new step uses one of the plurality of weighting plugs available from the first step in that it explicitly includes the substep of

(2) selecting a weighting plug from the plurality of weighting plugs of different weight.

Antonious discloses an insert, but its disclosure is entirely unrelated to applicant's claimed method. Antonious' so-called "inserts" are really couplings, exposed couplings at that. All of the Antonious inserts (12, 112, 212, etc...), in fact, are intended for attachment between one part of a golf club and another, i.e. between the grip 26 and the shaft 10 as shown in Figure 2;

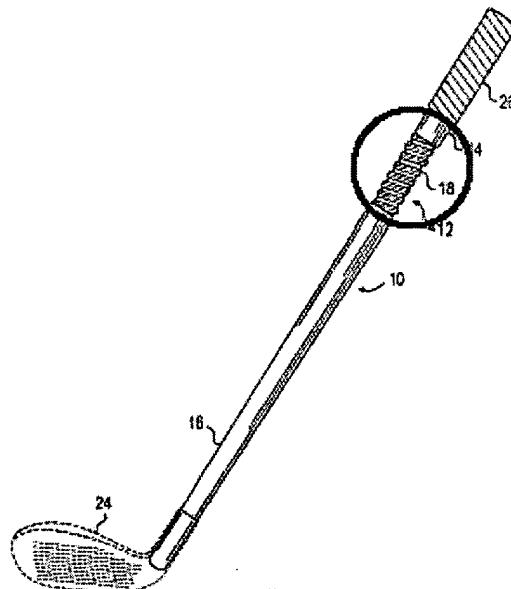


FIG. 2

or between the shaft 114 and the club head 124 as shown in Figure 11;

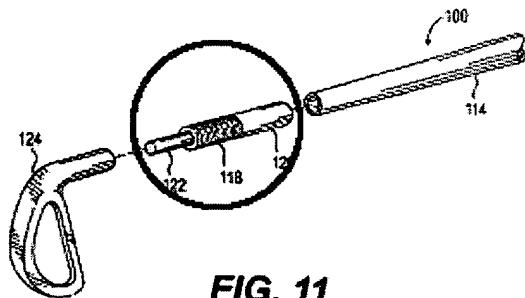


FIG. 11

or between an upper shaft portion 314 and a lower shaft portion 316 as shown in Figure 16:

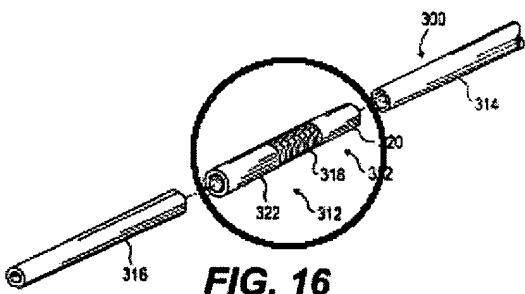


FIG. 16

By contrast, applicant's claimed method involves a "weighting plug" that is uniquely formed by combining dense weighting material with a moldable resin. There is nothing in Antonious to suggest the unique step of forming such weighting plugs. Moreover, Applicant's weighting plugs are integrated inside of the prepreg that form the golf club shaft. Unlike the Antonious inappropriately-named "inserts," the weighting plugs of Applicant's claimed method are not used to bridge or couple various portions of the golf club as is taught by Antonious.

Applicant acknowledges that Preece -557 discloses the use of weighted film, but respectfully suggests that there is nothing that can be taken from a reading of Antonious and Preece-557 that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at applicant's claimed invention. All that one of ordinary skill

could reasonably arrive at through an understanding of Antonious, in view of Preece-557, is a golf club that has an exposed coupler as shown in Antonious that also has weighted prepreg or “loaded film” as taught in Preece-557. The formation and use weighting plugs as claimed by applicant cannot fairly be said to be found in a combination of Antonious and Preece-557.

As to the other Preece reference, Preece-483, applicant acknowledges that Preece therein discloses a pre-molded plug 20 that is attached to a mandrel 12. However, the plug 20 of the Preece-483 reference is explicitly taught as being made of “foam, rubber or silicone” (Col.3, line 61) and there is no suggestion that a dense weighing material can or should be added. Moreover, the plug 20 of Preece-483 is described solely as being for the purpose of providing (1) a tighter compaction of the plies; and (2) structural support in the shaft tip. (Col.5, lines 1-5). There is nothing in Preece-483 to suggest that its plug 20 may be weighted through the addition of dense weighting material as claimed by applicant. It is interesting to note that Preece-557 is directed to weighted prepreg, and that the Preece references were filed by the same inventor, in the same year, but Preece-483 makes no reference whatsoever to using its plug for weighting.

As to dependent claims 27, 30, 31 and 34, applicant notes that they add further patentable subject matter and, aside from that, depend from now allowable Claim 24.

Summary

Based on the attached amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending Claims 24, 27, 30, 31 and 34 are in patentable condition and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance. Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if it appears that a telephone conference would further this case in any way.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 29, 2004.

By Angela Williams



Signature

January 29, 2004